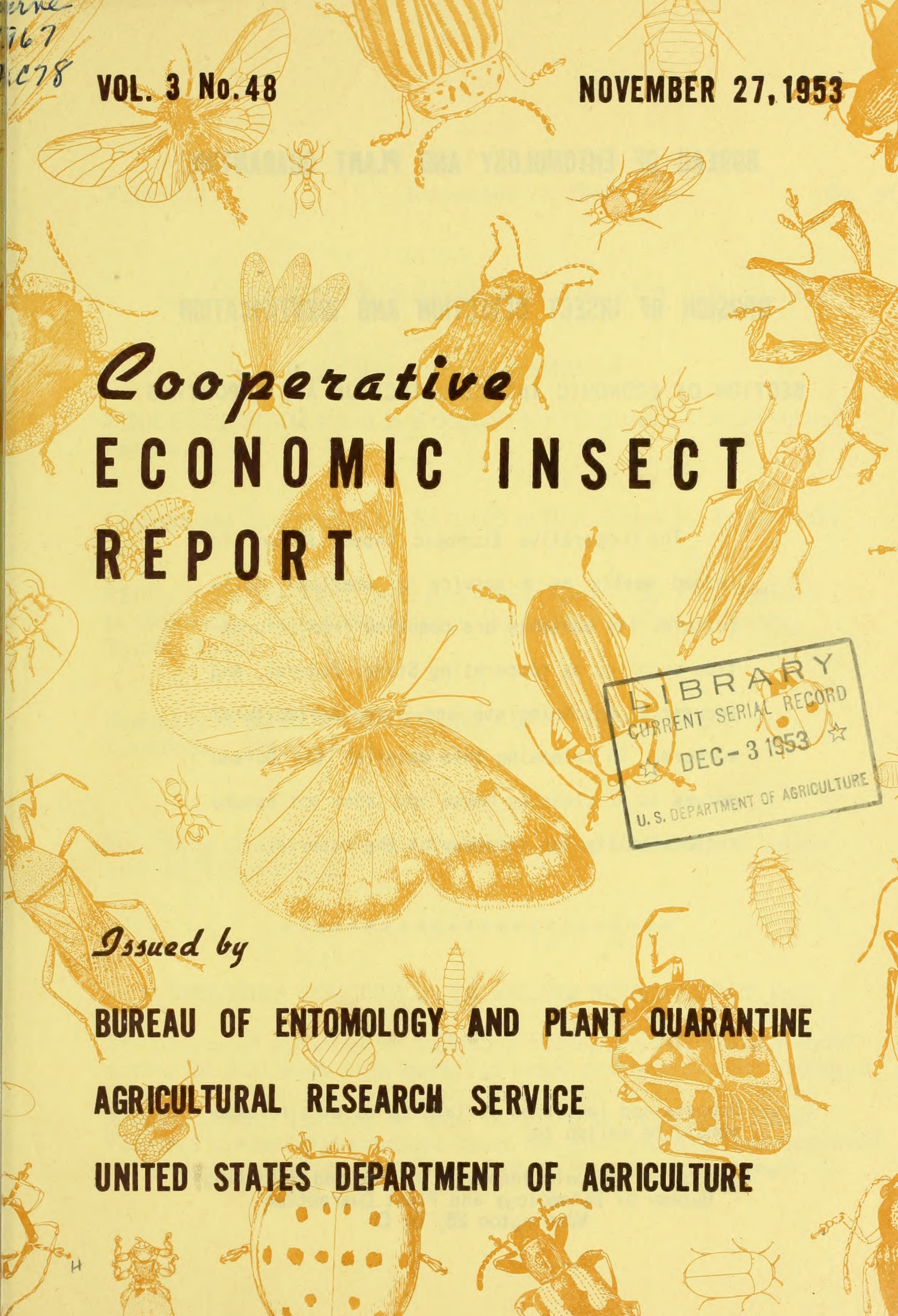
Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

erve
67
C78

VOL. 3 No.48 NOVEMBER 27, 1953



Cooperative ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ DEC - 3 1953 ☆
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Issued by

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

H

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

DIVISION OF INSECT DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

SECTION OF ECONOMIC INSECT DETECTION AND REPORTING

The Cooperative Economic Insect Report is issued weekly as a service to American Agriculture. Its contents are compiled from information supplied by cooperating State, Federal, and industrial entomologists and other agricultural workers. In releasing this material the Bureau serves as a clearing house and does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the material.

Reports and inquiries pertaining to this release should be mailed to:

Section of Economic Insect Detection and Reporting
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington 25, D. C.

Volume 3 November 27, 1953 No. 48

COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

Highlights of Insect Conditions

PINK BOLLWORM found in Arkansas for first time. Other survey results. (page 810).

Distribution of EUROPEAN EARWIG in United States. (page 810).

SEED-CORN MAGGOT damaging alfalfa (page 809) and spinach in Oklahoma. Severe on cabbage and lettuce in Zavala County, Texas. (page 811).

Summary of INSECT CONDITIONS - 1953 in New Jersey and Louisiana. (page 814).

Reports in this issue are for the week ending November 20 unless otherwise designated.

* *

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23, 1953

The prolonged period of unseasonably warm, dry fall weather ended during the past week as moderate to heavy precipitation accompanied by a 15° to 20° temperature drop moved from the far West to the Atlantic Coast. In many sections the much needed precipitation restored surface soil mositure which benefited pastures and improved the winter grain crop, and ended the high fire hazard; but was insufficient to replenish water supplies and subsoil moisture. A heavy snowstorm developed over the Central Rocky Mountains on the 18th and 19th and during the following two days moved northeastward across Minnesota. During the storm 11 inches of snow were measured at Lander, Wyo. and 4 to 8 inches were reported in Arizona at elevations above 7,000 feet. Heavy drifting slowed transportation in Colorado, and in east-central South Dakota and southern Minnesota where heavy snow and high winds were preceded by glaze and sleet, power and communication lines were damaged.

In the Gulf and Atlantic States and the Mississippi Valley moisture amounts totaled over an inch. Thunderstorms occurring over the South and East produced over 3 inches at some stations along the Middle Atlantic Coast (Providence, R. I., 3.15 inches), and over 8 inches at a few points on the central Gulf Coast. In the latter area, New Orleans, La., during 24-hour period on the 19th and 20th, recorded 7.77 inches (a new 24-hour record for November). According to Press reports, on the 22d a tornado injured 22 persons in Woodville, Fla., and another injured one person and destroyed 26 homes in Louisiana.

The week was warmer than normal along the Canadian Border and in all the eastern half of the Country, by as much as 18° in the Northeast. During the first part of the week maximum temperatures in the 60's and 70's in the Great Lakes region and Northeast set new late-season records at many stations. Some of the highest temperatures reported were: Onawa, Iowa, 77° on the 18th; Syracuse, N. Y., 71°, Richmond, Va., 75°, and Huntington, W. Va., 73° on the 22d.

In the far West and Great Plains the week was much cooler than normal. The lowest temperature reported was -15° at Woodruff, Utah on the 20th, when subzero minima were rather general in the Rocky Mountain region. Maverick, Ariz., recorded -9°, and killing frosts occurred in the southern valleys of this State on the 19th and 20th at elevations as low as 1500 feet. (Summary Supplied by the U. S. Weather Bureau).

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

APHIDS - FLORIDA - Populations of yellow sugarcane aphid (Sipha flava) fairly high in some pangola pastures in the Everglades. Possibility of serious injury to pastures still exists. Sixty to seventy percent of greenbug (Toxoptera graminum) population on some pasture areas has succumbed to braconid parasites. Most of corn leaf aphid (Rhopalosiphum maidis) in exposed situations also parasitized although populations well down in buds and leaf sheaths appear unaffected. Twenty-five to thirty percent of rusty plum aphid (Hysteroneura setariae) found killed by braconids. (Genung). English grain aphid (Macrosiphum granarium) damaging oats in Jefferson County. (Phillips).

LUPINE MAGGOT (Hylemya lupini) - FLORIDA - About 10 percent pupation in Gadsden County area. (Guthrie).

BEAN LEAF ROLLER (Urbanus proteus) - FLORIDA - Building up on untreated legumes in Everglades area and lower east coast. Populations very light on treated beans. (Genung).

LEAFHOPPERS - TEXAS - Light local infestation on small grains in McLennan County. (Davis).

SOUTHWESTERN CORN BORER (Diatraea grandiosella) - OKLAHOMA - Almost one-hundred percent of corn stalks examined infested with overwintering larvae. (Howell).

SEED-CORN MAGGOT (Hylemya cilicrura) - OKLAHOMA - Some fields of new alfalfa being extensively damaged in southwestern area. (Howell).

ALFALFA WEEVIL (Hypera postica) - PENNSYLVANIA - Recorded in Chester and Delaware Counties for first time in 1953. (Pepper).

A GELECHIID ON SAGEBRUSH (Aroga websteri) - OREGON - Heavy populations were destroying big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) over an estimated area of over one million acres during July in Harney, Lake and Deschutes Counties in eastern Oregon. (Gjullin).

COTTON INSECTS

PINK BOLLWORM (Pectinophora gossypiella) - ARKANSAS - Found for first time in State, November 5. A single specimen taken from gin trash in Hempstead County. Another specimen found in Miller County, November 10. Since these findings, individual samples have been examined from gins involved in an effort to pinpoint the infestations. To November 15, no additional pink bollworms have been found. OKLAHOMA - Six additional counties found infested for first time: Bryan, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Logan, Kingfisher and Roger Mills. LOUISIANA Three pink bollworm larvae taken in Natchitoches Parish during the period. This is a new record for this parish. All inspection results in MISSOURI, CALIFORNIA, and BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO were negative. (Welker, Nov. 1-15).

BOLL WEEVIL (Anthonomus grandis) - TEXAS - Very heavy infestation found in cotton field in Presidio Valley, five miles south of Redford. Not uncommon to find 3 larvae or 3 pupae in bolls. Infestation lighter in northern part of valley. (Harris, Russell). The boll weevil is seldom found in damaging numbers in this area.

FRUIT INSECTS

CODLING MOTH (Carpocapsa pomonella) - CALIFORNIA - Infestation on walnuts in northern area was by far the most serious situation encountered in any recent year. Increase was general throughout the walnut growing areas, and in some orchards more than 20 percent of nuts in the harvested crop were infested. Serious infestation occurred in some orchards where sprays were not timely, and not thoroughly applied. (Michelbacher).

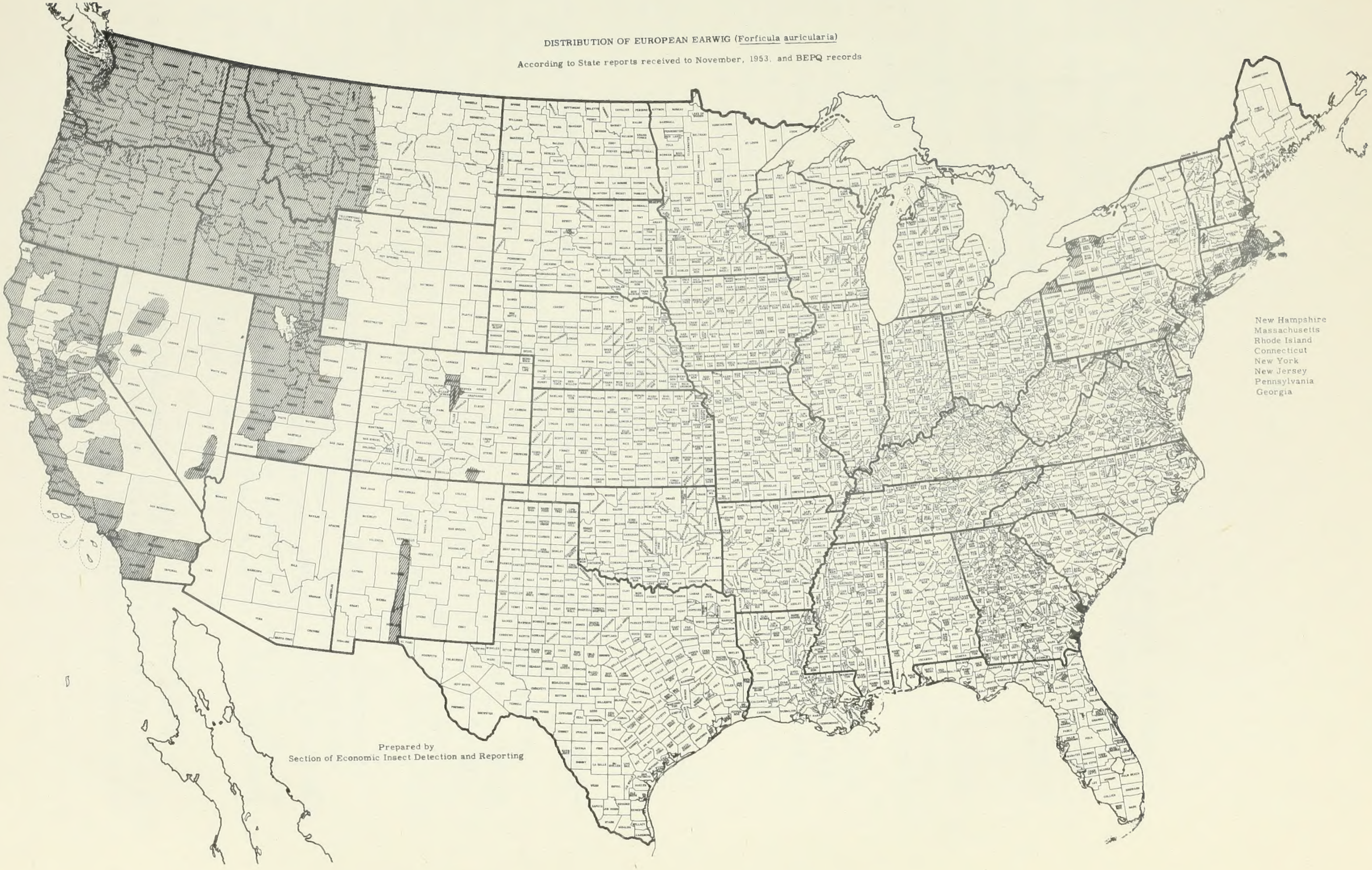
TRUCK CROP INSECTS

Distribution of European Earwig

The map on the opposite page shows the known distribution of European earwig according to State reports and Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine records. In obtaining the data, an inquiry was sent to each State Clearing House. The response has been excellent with 96 percent of the States replying to date. The distribution is based on actual records in so far as possible.

DISTRIBUTION OF EUROPEAN EARWIG (Forficula auricularia)

According to State reports received to November, 1953, and BEPQ records



Prepared by
Section of Economic Insect Detection and Reporting

SWEETPOTATO WEEVIL (*Cylas fomicarius elegantulus*) - TEXAS - Heavy widespread infestation on sweetpotatoes in Madison County. (Randolph, Fuller).

SPIDER MITES - SOUTH CAROLINA Abundant in one field of young spinach in Charleston area. (Cuthbert).

CABBAGE LOOPER (*Trichoplusia ni*) - TEXAS - Severe local infestation on cabbage and lettuce in Zavala County. Has been serious all season on cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and broccoli. (Richardson).

SEED-CORN MAGGOT (*Hylemya cilicrura*) - TEXAS - Severe local infestation on cabbage and lettuce in Zavala County. Considerable injury in experimental plots. (Richardson). OKLAHOMA - Active in spinach buds. Thirty-six percent of plants infested with from one to seven maggots. (Kantack, Walton).

TOMATO RUSSET MITE (*Vasates lycopersici*) - TEXAS - Medium isolated infestation on tomatoes in Zavala County. Infestation has increased considerably the last month. (Richardson).

FLEA BEETLES - CALIFORNIA - Several fields of yams in Orange and San Diego Counties were fumigated before planting, but on digging, yams found riddled by small holes typical of wireworm damage. Extensive digging failed to reveal any wireworms in these fields; however, on close inspection flea beetle larvae were found, and they were determined responsible for the damage. One grower estimated that his loss from this damage was $6000.00. (Campbell).

APHIDS - ARIZONA - Infestation on cabbage beginning along field margins at Phoenix. (Hammers). FLORIDA - Turnip aphid increasing on turnips in Gadsden County area. (May). SOUTH CAROLINA - Turnip aphid light to moderate in cabbage plant beds and on turnips in Charleston area. Insect enemies active. Light infestations of green peach aphid on spinach. (Cuthbert).

MOLE CRICKETS (mostly *Scapteriscus abbreviatus*) - FLORIDA - Causing considerable injury in gardens in Lake Worth area. Samples taken following insecticide treatment show population of about 2,500 per acre. (Genung).

A CHRYSANTHEMUM APHID (Rhopalosiphum rufomaculatum) - MISSISSIPPI - Severe damage to flowers of chrysanthemum in Hinds County. (Hutchins).

FOREST INSECTS

GYPSY MOTH (Porthetria dispar) - PENNSYLVANIA - A new infestation has been discovered in the mountains of Lackawanna County five miles southwest of Carbondale. This infestation, covering about ten acres, is about a mile outside of the 650-square-mile area that was treated by airplane beginning in 1945. No gypsy moths have been found in the treated area since airplane spraying was completed in 1949. More than 1,000 egg masses were found in the new area. A cooperative spray program against this infestation is planned for May, 1954. (Guyton, Oct. 29).

A HOLLY SCALE (Asterolecanium puteanum) - PENNSYLVANIA - Very severe infestation on Ilex opaca (75 trees) in Lancaster County. (Pepper).

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

HOUSE FLY (Musca domestica) - OREGON - Population was unusually low in Willamette Valley throughout summer. In a survey in vicinity of Corvallis larvae found in only 5 out of 30 places that appeared suitable for development. (Gjullin).

TABANIDS - FLORIDA Heaviest known population of tabanids between mid-October and mid-November consisted of about two Chrysops hinei per animal at Umatilla on November 16. During this period occasional Tabanus atratus, T. lineola, and T. nigrovittatus were observed. (Jones).

STORED-PRODUCT INSECTS

INDIAN-MEAL MOTH (Plodia interpunctella) - TEXAS - Severe local infestation in stored maize in Madison County. (Randolph, Fuller).

RICE WEEVIL (*Sitophilus oryza*) - TEXAS - Medium local infestation in stored maize in Madison County. (Randolph, Fuller).

RECENT IMPORTANT INTERCEPTIONS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

Adult bruchids intercepted in seeds of legumes from foreign countries recently at various ports included the following species not known to occur in the continental United States: *Bruchus azoricus* Cr. in *Vicia* in mail from Portugal at San Pedro (Sierra); *B. dentipes* Blanch. in *Vicia* in mail from Liberia at Chicago (Dodd); *B. lentis* Frol. in lentils in baggage from Italy at New York (Kuhn); *B. luteicornis* Ill. in vetch with straw in mail from Germany at Buffalo (Reeves); *B. signaticornis* Gyll. in lentils in mail from Italy at New York (Couture); *B. tristis* Boh. in *Lathyrus* in baggage and mail from Italy at New York (Couture, Prentiss); *B.* prob. *ulicis* Boh. in *Vicia* in mail from Morocco, and *B.* prob. *sibiricus* Germ. in *Vicia* in mail from Turkey at Washington, D. C. (Gouldman).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

LOUISIANA SOUTHERN CABBAGEWORM (*Pieris protodice*) larvae and pupae abundant on cabbage in St. James Parish. Adults numerous. CABBAGE LOOPER (*Trichoplusia ni*) seriously damaging cabbage in this parish also. Both insects reported difficult to control. (Smith, Cockerham).

* *

CORRECTION: Under SCREW-WORM, page 781, vol. 3, no. 45, insert MISSISSIPPI for FLORIDA.

SUMMARY OF INSECT CONDITIONS - 1953

NEW JERSEY

Reported by L. G. Merrill

Weather conditions in New Jersey were mostly hot and dry in 1953. Cole crops were very heavily attacked by CABBAGE LOOPER (*Trichoplusia ni*) and MITES were numerous on many vegetable crops. Early in the season, FLEA BEETLES were injurious. On sweet corn these insects as vectors caused a high incidence of Stewart's disease. FALL ARMYWORM (*Laphygma frugiperda*) and CORN EARWORM (*Heliothis armigera*) were very numerous on late sweet and field corn. Earworm also attacked late lettuce. EUROPEAN CORN BORER (*Pyrausta nubilalis*) was not a serious problem. POTATO LEAFHOPPERS were very numerous on forage and vegetable crops. SPITTLEBUGS were not as serious as usual on forage crops. PEA APHID (*Macrosiphum pisi*) was not as serious on forage crops as in other years. TOMATO RUSSET MITE (*Vasates lycopersici*) was again present in several localities in southern New Jersey. The *Drosophila* spp. problem was not as serious on canning tomatoes and peppers as in 1952. EUROPEAN RED MITE (*Metatetranychus ulmi*) was fairly serious in many orchards. APPLE APHID (*Aphis pomi*) was a problem in many orchards, and where careful spraying was not practiced, CODLING MOTH (*Carpocapsa pomonella*) injury was noticeably heavy.

LOUISIANA

Compiled by C. E. Smith

FALL ARMYWORM was extremely abundant and widespread. Damage to rice, pasture grasses, corn, Sudan grass, cotton and alfalfa. ARMYWORM (*Pseudaletia unipuncta*) was extremely destructive to small grains. SUGARCANE BORER (*Diatraea saccharalis*) infestation in cane and corn was heavier and more widespread in 1953 than in any previous year since 1926. An insecticidal control program, in which from 60 to 70 thousand acres of cane and corn were dusted, brought the insect under control on most of the larger acreages, but severe damage was evident on many of the smaller farms where no control was practiced. A laboratory for production of *Trichogramma* sp., the egg parasite of the sugarcane borer, was established in the early part of the year and came into production in June. Nearly 60,000,000 parasites were released over the sugarcane growing area. Plans are being formulated for increasing production to about 400,000,000 parasites for making earlier releases next year.

VEGETABLE WEEVIL (*Listroderes costirostris obliquus*) was a major pest on vegetable crops during the spring.

BOLL WEEVIL (*Anthonomus grandis*) - Early infestations were generally light; however, heavy populations were developing in some areas in early September. BOLLWORMS (*Heliothis* spp. et al) were serious pests on cotton in the northwestern part of the State, expecially in Red River Valley. SPIDER MITES were widespread on cotton, but in general, infestations were confined to margins of fields until late in the season. COTTON LEAFWORM (*Alabama argillacea*) appeared early and defoliated extensive acreages over the southern half of the State. TOBACCO THRIPS (*Frankliniella fusca*) - Early infestations on cotton were unusually light; heavy infestations developed in some areas on late-plated cotton. COTTON FLEAHOPPER (*Psallus seriatus*) was more abundant than in any year since 1926, and infestations on cotton persisted longer than usual. COTTON APHID (*Aphis gossypii*) was more abundant than for several years. Heavy damaging infestations occurred on both treated and untreated fields. Insecticides having aphicidal properties when properly applied controlled this pest